The pride of North Carolina's electric cooperatives

Volume 35, No. 5, May 2003

Carolina country

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Once Upon a Time in the Wild — Page 14

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E-mail: museum@coresound.com.
Web: www.coresound.com

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More North Carolina contributions to humans aloft

By Edward E. Brown Jr.

North Carolina's Touchstone Energy cooperatives are providing support for the Festival of Flight, which celebrates the 100th anniversary of the Wright brothers flight at Kitty Hawk, because the history of electricity is much like the history of flight. It took ingenuity, boldness and overcoming many obstacles to make both happen. And both have profoundly affected our quality of life and the way we live and work.

More than a decade before hosting Orville and Wilbur Wright in Dare County, North Carolina claimed another "first in flight." In 1892, Delia Jaquin soared into the air in a hot air balloon and became North Carolina's first female balloon pilot, soon dubbed an "aeronaut."

Modern-day aeronaut Cheri White, the U.S. Women's National Champion Balloonist and chief pilot for the Touchstone Energy cooperatives balloon, will continue the tradition of female balloon pilots at the upcoming Festival of Flight in Fayetteville May 16-26. Like Jaquin, Cheri White already has secured a place for herself in the nation's balloonist history books.

White is an expert in piloting balloons, not jumping from them as Jaquin did a century ago, and she has been doing it for 20 years. She achieved international fame when she and 14 other balloonists piloted their balloons – White piloted the Touchstone Energy hot air balloon – across the continental divide at an altitude of 15,500 feet and a speed of 55 miles per hour. The group event is recorded in the Guinness Book of Records.

Thomas Parramore, author of "First to Fly: North Carolina and the Beginning of Flight," said that Jaquin, who later appeared professionally as "Little Dot Zelno" and "Mademoiselle Leona," was a petite 15-year-old who saw a balloon exhibition in Charlotte and ran away with the circus. Three days later, in Winston-Salem, according to Parramore, she soloed and then parachuted safely to the ground from a height of 4,000 feet.

In 1892, as now, ballooning was a hazardous profession. A few months later, Little Dot made headlines in Wilmington when she landed in the top of a live oak tree and had to be rescued with a ladder.

Within a few years many women parachutists were jumping from balloons. According to Parramore, North Carolina's Georgia Ann "Tiny" Thompson made her first jump in 1908 – and quickly became one of the world's most famous jumpers – and then toured the country for years. Thompson was an 80-pound Oxford teenager and cotton-mill worker who saw a balloon exhibition at the State Fairgrounds and, like Little Dot, signed on and left town. Charles Broderick, owner of the show, adopted Thompson and billed her act, "Miss Tiny Broderick, The World's Most Daring Aviatrice-Parachutist." In 1913, she became the first woman to parachute from an airplane and was considered the leading parachutist in the nation. She was known as "the Doll Girl" when she retired to Caswell County 14 years later.

The credentials of the aeronauts of the late 1800s and early 1900s, however, pale in comparison with those of White, who, in addition to being a licensed balloon pilot, is an attorney, mother of twins and a veteran of flights in Europe, Asia and South America. White's appearance with the Touchstone Energy cooperatives hot air balloon at the upcoming Festival of Flight is being made possible by five North Carolina Touchstone Energy cooperatives: Central EMC, Four County EMC, Lumbee River EMC, South River EMC and Tri-County EMC.

The Touchstone balloon was built by Lindstrand Balloons USA in Galena, Illinois. It is more than 72 feet tall and 53 feet wide when fully inflated. It is fired by dual propane burners and fueled by two 15-gallon propane tanks. Its basket can carry two passengers. The 69,000-cubic-foot hot air Touchstone Energy balloon, along with other balloons from around the country, will be tethered at the Festival of Flight site, and White will be available at various times to sign autographs and talk with spectators. On Sunday, May 18, she will fly the balloon.

The Festival of Flight will be the largest event in North Carolina in celebration of the 1903 Wright brother's flight. The festival actually is a series of aviation-related events that are expected to draw a half million people to Fayetteville, site of the Airborne and Special Operations Museum. Activities will include a weekend arts festival, a two-day military show at Pope Air Force Base, a general aviation show at Grannis Field, and a seven-day exposition with aviation displays and interactive exhibitions from NASA, the Air and Space Museum of the Smithsonian Institution, and the US Air Force.

More information on the Festival of Flight is available at *www.festivalofflight.org*. We hope to see you there.

Edward E. Brown Jr. is a pilot of single-engine aircraft as well as the executive vice president and general manager of Four County Electric Membership Corporation. Four County Electric serves nearly 30,000 members in Duplin, Sampson, Bladen, Pender, Columbus and Onslow counties.

Two hearts

After a snow this winter, I watched from my window as the paper delivery man left my newspaper. He backed into the driveway, then drove away, and his tires left two perfect hearts in the snow. It reminded me that two hearts lived in this house more than 20 years. My husband passed away four years ago, but he is still my sweetheart.

Elnora L. Somerville
Macon
Halifax EMC

From the Travel Guide editor

We appreciate the comments we've received on "See North Carolina – The 2003 Touchstone Energy Touring Guide" we published in April. We know that many of you keep that magazine around all year for reference purposes. Terry Cross, a sixth grade teacher in Concord, sent copies to friends who are visiting the state and also uses the magazine in classroom work. (The students also can try some "Joyner's Corner" puzzles after they finish their regular work.)

Medoc Mountain State Park: We reported an incorrect phone number for Medoc Mountain State Park in Halifax County. The correct number is (252) 586-6588.

The Thomas Wolfe Angel: A reader pointed out to us that we listed the Thomas Wolfe Angel in both Old Fort (Catawba Foothills, page 64) and Hendersonville (The Blue Ridge, page 70). "How can one angel be in two different places?" she asked. Well, the answer is that there are 15 such angels known to have come from the tombstone shop of Thomas Wolfe's father, William Oliver Wolfe. The angel in the Oakdale Cemetery in Hendersonville is the statue most identified with the angel described in Wolfe's novel, "Look Homeward, Angel." The angel in the Old Fort Cemetery is believed to be the one his father lost in a poker game. Several of the angels can be found in the Riverside Cemetery in Asheville, and one is in Bryson City. We did place the angel photo in the wrong location, however. The angel seen on page 70 is actually the one standing in the Old Fort Cemetery, not the one in Hendersonville.

The Thomas Wolfe Memorial: The novelist's boyhood home in Asheville is undergoing renovations and will re-open to visitors in the fall. Call this state historic site at (828) 253-8304 for more information about the angels and Thomas Wolfe.

Renee Gannon

Oysters can thrive here

The North Carolina Coastal Federation, the shellfish sanitation guys, the Coastal Area Management Act people, the Environmental Protection Agency folks and all the bright, young environmental types fresh out of environmental indoctrination school all bemoan the loss of oysters in North Carolina waters, blaming storm water runoff and pollution, saying "Oysters are dying because our coastal ecosystem is grossly out of balance" ["How Soon Will the North Carolina Oyster Disappear?" January 2003].

Evidently the oysters don't know this, because if you look down Calico Creek at low tide (North 20th St. Bridge in Morehead City), the place is thick with oysters, and this is where a municipal waste treatment plant dumps. The creek probably has more storm water runoff than any place in the county. This is after the state took most of the oysters out of Calico Creek, following the red tide, to transplant them elsewhere in the county. But, of course, it didn't work because you have to move oysters to waters with similar tidal characteristics and salinity, which the state didn't do.

Anyway, according to the fisheries fellows, if you put shellfish in similar and "clean" water, they will clean up their gullets in 20 or 30 days.

This brings up three questions:

1. All those smart folks know about all those oysters thriving in those so-called "polluted waters," so why is it that they keep saying pollution and runoff are killing the oysters?
2. If pollution and storm water aren't killing them, why aren't they growing in other waters like they are in Calico Creek ?
3. What regulatory position have all those government environmental folks been taking to actually try to kill off the oysters that now thrive in Calico Creek? (You'll really have to study to figure out this one.)

Bill Price II
Morehead City

Why did the chicken climb the tree?

This game chicken used her head during the ice storms we had this year. Our neighbor's chickens came down three times a day to eat the seeds that fell on the ground from our bird feeder. But this hen was the only one who hopped up into the tree to eat directly off the feeder. I also believe she liked getting her picture taken, because she didn't move at all while I was doing it.

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Utilities commissioner says co-ops are "in good hands"

Local regulation and a focus on consumer service is a formula for success in the utility business, according to James Y. Kerr II, a member of the North Carolina Utilities Commission.

Speaking at April's annual meeting of North Carolina's electric cooperative statewide organizations, Kerr said "We believe that regulation that is closest to the service itself is the better way to go."

Kerr said North Carolina, like some other states, has been wise in its wait-and-see approach to deregulating the electric utility business. States that have legislated a scheme to open the electricity distribution business to competition on the retail consumer level, he said, have begun to back pedal. He cited recent efforts to "reverse the trend" in Arkansas, New Mexico and Virginia. "Retail competition is a receding tide," he said. "We've survived and avoided a lot of problems. California is struggling to look more like North Carolina and less like what they thought they were going to look like with a restructured industry."

Randy Berger/Salstrand Studio

N.C. Utilities Commissioner Jim Kerr comments on deregulation and serving consumers.

Jim Kerr is one of seven members of the North Carolina Utilities Commission (NCUC), each appointed by the governor for 8-year terms. Gov. Mike Easley appointed Kerr, a lawyer and a Democrat from Goldsboro, to a term that began in July 2001. The commission regulates the state's electric, natural gas, telecommunications and private water and sewer utilities. "Our mission is to protect the public interest, to ensure adequate service and reasonable rates," Kerr said.

Kerr praised the service that electric cooperatives have provided to rural North Carolina. "The cooperative model of local control is impressive," he said, especially when combined with the co-ops' system of pooling resources and expertise on the regional and national levels. "I think you all got it right and about as well organized as it can be organized."

The NCUC researches and regulates rates for the state's investor-owned utilities, but does not involve itself with co-op rates. The commission does review co-op resource and facilities plans, service area assignments and service quality. The system whereby member-elected boards of directors govern the cooperatives and set their budgets and rates, Kerr said, has worked well for more than 60 years.At a time when the public has seen abuses in the governance of large corporations, including those in the energy sector, as well as in their financial performance and personal integrity, Kerr said, cooperatives can emerge successfully, particularly if they "believe in the basics" of serving their consumer-members. "You and your consumers are in good hands," he said.

Carteret-Craven Electric creates tie with Costa Rican co-op

Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative in Morehead City recently inaugurated a formal "sister electric cooperative" relationship with Cooperativa Electrica de los Santos (Coopesantos), in Costa Rica. Carteret-Craven will share and exchange technical assistance and knowledge with Coopesantos. Establishing normal ties with an electric cooperative in a developing country will benefit Carteret-Craven through opportunities to enrich the cultural understanding and global knowledge of its staff, members and community at large.

The first official meeting between the two cooperatives took place in March between staff and directors from each co-op who were attending a National Rural Electric Cooperative Association meeting in Nashville, Tenn. Two representatives from Coopesantos later visited Morehead City to explore areas of mutual benefit and assistance.

The Costa Rican co-op has about 29,300 members, and its average monthly kilowatt-hour consumption is 143 kwh per member.

"This program is an excellent opportunity not only to learn and exchange ideas with neighboring cooperatives in other countries but to learn about their culture, as well," said Craig Conrad, executive vice president and general manager at Carteret-Craven Electric.

Two other North Carolina cooperatives – Blue Ridge Electric and EnergyUnited -- maintain sister relationships with Latin American cooperatives.

Dejee Hickman

Carteret-Craven Electric's engineering technician Tony Gillespie (left) and information technology specialist Ricky Jimenez (second from left) discuss mapping with the manager and board president of Coopesantos, a Costa Rican electric cooperative.

The Sister Cooperative program is an outreach of the NRECA International Foundation, a non-profit charitable organization established by the electric cooperatives of America to help families in rural areas of developing countries meet their basic energy needs and overcome poverty through access to electricity and community development. Electric cooperatives and the NRECA International Foundation are helping to promote international goodwill and to demonstrate America's character of charity and assistance to those in need throughout the world.

Talking business

When cooperative leaders met with state legislators in Raleigh March 19, state Rep. Joni Bowie, Republican of Guilford County, greeted Surry-Yadkin EMC delegates (from left) Alvin Reid Sr., Wayne McInnis and Michael Beasley.

State Sen. Charles W. Albertson (left), Democrat from Beulaville, met in his office with Tri-County EMC director Richard Grady.

Shaking hands in the Legislative Office Building were State Sen. Patrick J. Ballentine (right), Republican from Wilmington, and J. Ronald McElheney, the CEO of Jones-Onslow EMC. Also meeting with the senator were directors and staff of Jones-Onslow EMC

Cooperatives seek teachers' Bright Ideas

It's that time of year for teachers with Bright Ideas to apply for a grant from one of North Carolina's 27 electric cooperatives. This year, more than a quarter of million dollars will be awarded to teachers with innovative classroom teaching ideas across the state.

On May 1, the Bright Ideas Web site, www.ncbrightideas.com, will go live and the application process will begin. A completely revised Web site and on-line application makes applying for a Bright Ideas grant easier than ever.

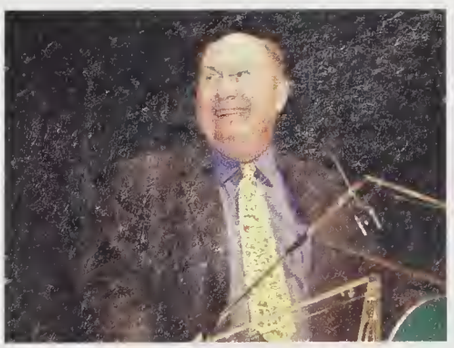
Teachers can begin working on their applications starting May 1, and the applications will be accepted until mid-September/early October, depending on the co-ops' selected deadline dates. You can find your co-op's deadline by visiting the Web site and searching for your school. There, you will find all the information for your sponsoring cooperative, including grant deadlines and the maximum grant amount your co-op will give per grant.

The grant program awards grants up to $2,000 to imaginative educators in any subject or grade at North Carolina certified K-12 schools.

The Bright Ideas program has benefited thousands of students since its inception in 1994. The grants fund innovative programs created by North Carolina teachers who otherwise would lack the funds to implement these classroom-based projects. Projects have included activities in music, art, history, language, reading, science, career-planning and information technology.

For more information, contact your cooperative, or the statewide coordinator Suzanne Ward, community relations specialist for the North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives, at (919) 645-2430 or suzanne.ward@ncemcs.com.

Darned iron



"The REA – right after World War II – came to North Carolina. My Aunt Zanie lived in a cabin back in the woods. It was her father's and grandfather's. She swept it with a broom, had a wood stove. Well, in '46 or '47 – she got electricity. She had never had it before. Her kids decided to give her an electric iron for Christmas. They came back about a week later and said, "Aunt Zanie, how do you like the iron?" She said, "I threw the darned thing out the window." They said, "Why?" She said, "It would never get cold!"

— Willard Scott, noted humorist, spoke in March at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association annual meeting in Nashville. He is best known for his weathe and feature reporting on the NBC News "Today" program.

WHY THEY MADE THE
CORE SOUND WATERFOWL

By Michael E.C. Gery

Summer Programs

Decoy Exhibit: From the legendary collection of Roy Willis of Stacy.

Photographs: "Island People." Striking photographs of Harkers Island in the 1980s, by German photographer Ulrich Mack, adjacent to photos from the German island of Pellworm.

Paintings: "David's Brush." Work by the late David A. Lawrence.

Permanent Exhibit: "The Core Sound Story."

Boat Restoration: The "Jean Dale." Exhibiting the 1940s wooden workboat made on Harkers Island.

Plus: Coastal writers series, kayaking, Down East cooking demonstrations, traditional crafts, and decoy carving.

At first, they hunted wild ducks and geese Down East because they needed meat to eat or down to stuff into a pillow.

Later, they made a business of it. They brought down thousands of waterfowl, gutted and hung them to dry overnight, packed them with ice in barrels, and shipped them out so that people elsewhere could eat them, too. By 1900 your typical marsh ducks sold for $1 per pair. Canvasbacks and redheads could fetch $4 per pair. They also stalked local egrets and herons, removed the long plumes from their crowns and necks, and sold the delicate feathers to decorate stylish women's hats. In the early 1900s, the government sent wardens to put an end to the plumage business, and a federal law in 1918 made it altogether illegal to sell migratory waterfowl. But people still enjoyed hunting the birds, and sportsmen from all over came to coastal North Carolina to tramp through marshes looking for these birds. They loved just thinking about going out before dawn in frosty, salty air, and as a pink sky opened around them, they watched for colorful, lively birds. They loved even more actually going to a place like Down East and its clear blue sky, its wide, clean beaches and endless expanses of gentle water in the bays and sounds. To bag some ducks enhanced the thrill of it all, and then to go someplace simple and warm to eat them and tell stories among good people about good times – well, how much better can life get?

No one knew better how to get there than the local people, of course. They learned from their parents and grandparents how to do it. They knew when and where to go, and what to do when they got there. They knew what boats to pole and what boots to wear. They knew the guns and the gear. They knew how to get back home, cook the meat, sing and tell stories afterwards, and make the quilts to keep warm in bed that night. And they knew how to get the birds to come close.

They used decoys. Early on, they captured ducks and geese, marked them as their own by, say, cutting off a toe, and they kept the fowl in the yard. Even as the tamed birds wandered in the neighborhood, you would know whom they belonged to because of their markings. Their owners could identify them by their calls, too. They trusted the birds like they trusted their dogs. For hunting, you would tie them together on a line, far enough apart so they could swim a ways, and send them out into the sound. Meanwhile, you and your buddies, or the out-of-towners who trusted you as a guide, would lay back behind the rushes, or down in a sink box near water level, or out in a low, wooden boat called a battery. Those decoys (also called "tolers")would quack up a ruckus, and sooner or later their wild brethren would wing overhead and notice the happy, good-looking quackers floating on the water, and multitudes would splash down and settle themselves. In the early days, they say, migrating waterfowl Down East would darken the sky, then alight on the sound in rafts so vast that you couldn't even see the water they dabbled in. Even in a crowd, decoys are not dumb, especially when they're missing a toe or part of a wing. They knew enough to paddle off to the side before the pellets flew.

Later, they used what they called "idols." Down East people found driftwood or surplus wood to carve and assemble something that would look and act like a duck. They modeled a brant's head and neck blunter than a goose's

Museum

head and set it slightly forward like a real brant's head. A pintail duck had that spindly tail sticking up just right and that elegant, white stripe up its slender neck. A redhead had a red head and floated just as proudly as a real redhead.

They knew how to carve a duck head, because – well, because it made sense for someone to do it, and they knew these birds better than just about anyone. It was the same with boats. They figured out how to build boats that could navigate the shallow sounds and haul fish. Same with singing: singing in a high wind out where the sawgrass and sea oats grow can be a pretty soulful thing to witness. Same with making something to eat: they could make a very tasty meal from plain old mullet, collards and cornmeal. People Down East could do all this today, if they had to. But they don't have to, anymore. Today, you've got big boats made of plastic, music in headsets, microwave lasagna, romance on TV and dogs that get scared when they leave your lap. And hardly anyone needs a hunting guide, a pole boat, a duck dog, a clubhouse or a pretty wooden decoy that attracts live birds. Hardly anyone has a need for a wild duck at all.

But sometimes we do need to be in a place that is quiet, peaceful, honest and natural. So people go Down East now for that thrill: the thrill of a natural ocean beach on Core Banks, the thrill of an honest lighthouse at Cape Lookout. Down East people adapt to that, too. They make small, model boats that look and act like real ones. They carve a sandpiper that looks as curious and frantic as a live one. How did they learn to make them? The same way they learned to make the big skiffs and the hunter's decoys. They ferry families to the Core Banks and pick them up later in the afternoon. In their restaurants, they serve cornmeal dumplings.

They know that life Down East will keep changing. Living with wind and tide, you never really know what's coming. Protected by the National Park Service, the Core Banks will remain natural – you can still see long trains of cormorants wing by out there – but it will change. So people Down East – from Cedar Island to Salter Path below Morehead City – have adapted to this, too. They began building a museum 10 years ago so we all can see this life history and try to understand how it changes.

This month, the Core Sound Waterfowl Museum moves into its new building at Shell Point on Harkers Island. It grew from the natural ability of the people here, and from how much they care for each other. As always, they know how to make something that will not only attract the rest of us, but will work well once we get there. And no one knows better how to get there than they do.

What's Happening at the Museum

North Carolina's Touchstone Energy cooperatives — Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative, Harkers Island EMC and the statewide North Carolina EMC -- have supported the Core Sound Waterfowl Museum since its inception. Our commitment to community, "the power of human connections," lives in this place.

Memorial Day Weekend: Member reception, May 23. "Community Day," May 24, with exhibits, music, storytelling, and auction. Down East Homecoming on May 25 with dinner-on-the-ground and a dedication service. Down East fish fry on May 26.

June 7: N.C. Decoy Association program and displays.

June 10-14: Daily programs for kids outdoors.

June 14: Cape Lookout Lighthouse stamp unveiling and transfer of lighthouse to National Park Service (9 a.m.). Luncheon at the museum. Trip via "the mailboat" to Cape Lookout for stamp cancellation. Ceremony with dignitaries.

June 21: Molasses Creek, "Ocrafolk bluegrass," outdoors.

June 27: Symposium with cultural scholars and photographer Hinch Mack.

July 3: "Kurali's America" multi-media [illegible] Kurali's work.

For membership information

Memberships in Core Sound Waterfowl Museum are available at $25 (individual), $40 (family), and $50 (business/organization).

Contact:

Core Sound Waterfowl Museum
1785 Island Road
P.O. Box 556
Harkers Island, NC 28531
(252) 728-1500
www.coresound.com

Once Upon a Time in the WILD

Wild things you say you saw

Lots of you have seen something strange and wild, because we received plenty of reports on the theme, "We actually saw a wild . . ." Thanks to everyone who submitted one. You can see more at www.carolinacountry.com

The sightings amazed or scared you or both. Some were hilarious, like the "wild attorneys" spotted somewhere in the marshes near Duck. Others were almost unbelievable (a few are below). But you described all of them by first recognizing and appreciating the environment where you saw them, which was wilderness in most cases. Let's make sure there always will be North Carolina wilderness where generations of grandchildren can see something amazing.

Next month we'll publish your candidates for the finest North Carolina food specialty. For the remaining themes of our series, see page 16.

— Michael E.C. Gery

Wild boar in Wake County

I actually saw two wild boar in 1997 in Wake County. It was summer and I was coming home from work on a quiet Sunday morning. My routine trip became not-so-routine when I came over the crest of a hill near the Falls Lake reservoir. There in the road — and taking up the entire road — were two wild boar, tusks and all. They appeared to be fighting and apparently I was not invited. I had little reaction time going 55 mph, so all I could do was slam the brakes on my pickup and bounce off the road in the grass to avoid them. One ran off and the other one spun around to challenge me. I bounced back onto the road and kept on going and have not seen any more boar to this day.

People are amazed that such a wild animal could be so close to Raleigh, but remember that the Falls Lake area is bordered by thousands of acres of protected forest land. Who knows what other critters are living in them?

Terry Streit
Wake Forest
Wake EMC

Golden eagle in Ashe County

We love to hike when at my in-laws' place near Mt. Jefferson. During excursions we have seen deer, rabbits, wild turkeys and, unfortunately, a few copperhead snakes. Our most amazing sighting occurred when we hiked a nearby mountain that did not have trails. My in-laws, who had hiked there before, described a heart-shaped lake and an old home site surrounded by orchards. We climbed up the side of this steep mountain, going straight for the top instead of at an angle. When we reached the top, we were trying to get our breath when a huge bird scampered out of nearby bush and took to the sky. The copper-brown bird had a wingspan of at least 4 feet. We had no idea what it was, but it was majestic.

Later, when I visited the Carolina Raptor Center in Charlotte, a worker told me that the bird we had seen was probably a golden eagle. The mountain we had climbed had rock outcroppings on the top where the birds sometimes nest

Now, when we sit on the deck in the mountains watching birds soar overhead, we always wonder if that is "our" golden eagle flying above.

Laura M. Pennell
Concord
Union Power Cooperative

The wild rooster of Pink Hill

We actually saw a wild rooster, or should I say a "were-rooster." It happened last fall when my brother Ben, dad and I went to the chicken house to do some work after the lights had gone out. There was a very large, bright full moon that night, and the moon had just come up over the tops of the trees. Ben had opened the large doors to the chicken house for us to get in with the tools, when all of a sudden we heard a pounding sound coming from down inside the chicken house, growing louder and getting closer.

We turned to see what was making the noise when we saw a rooster come flying past us. It landed on the table we used to put the egg trays on. This rooster looked at the moon, threw back his head and let out a noise like I have never heard in all my years on this earth. It was not a crow like normal roosters make, it was more like a scream.

That rooster then flew down off the table and ran straight into the woods, with us trying to catch it. As it ran into the woods, it turned its head around, looked at us, and stretching its left wing out behind him, waving at us as if to say, "See ya," and he was gone.

We have not seen head nor feathers of him since. But sometimes, when the moon is full, we hear a sound coming from the swamp that sounds like that scream we heard from the "were-chicken."

John Lee
Pink Hill
Tri-County EMC

A bear at lunch

About 10 years ago when I still raised beef cattle, I went to the woods after burying a dead calf. A huge, wild paw print on top of fresh-dug dirt caught my eye. I gave a delicate probe with a stick so as not to disturb the grave, and found that part of my dead calf was under the loose dirt.

Back at the house, I phoned Animal Control, who called the Wildlife Commission in Raleigh. When the game warden came, we drove to the woods. I noticed when he got out he left his pickup door wide open. His eyes darted from left to right. He examined the grave in a hurry and said, "Come on."

We got back into his truck like two darts. "Definitely a large bear," he said. "Do not bother that grave. You never know when a bear is close by guarding his food supply, and he will fight for his food."

I let the bear have the calf.

Marvin Beaman
Mount Olive
Tri-County EMC

The owl in Chocowinity

We saw this great horned owl in my garden in Longpoint Landing.

Nancy Goodrich
Chocowinity
Tideland EMC

Wild women in Burke County

My husband in his youthful years enjoyed camping and hiking. He would often go camping to Short Off Mountain in western Burke County. He would tease me and say that there were "wild women" that ran through the woods. Of course, I did not believe a word of this.

He invited me to go along with him on one of those outings. After a long, tiring climb up the mountain we set up camp and hiked off to get water from a nearby stream. We had just returned to camp and began cooking our supper when I looked up to see the roughest, most rugged, wildest-looking female coming our way with a backpack slung over her shoulders. She passed by, spoke pleasantly and headed off in the direction of the stream. My husband then turned to me and said, "I told you there were wild women in these woods."

Melody May
Morganton
Rutherford EMC

Bottlenose dolphins close up

During November 2002, my husband and I went fishing out of Shallotte Inlet. It was a beautiful warm day, and the water was calm. On the way out, my husband noticed something hitting the top of the water and we stopped, thinking we had found a school of kings. It was a huge pod of bottlenose dolphins, and they headed straight for our boat. We were surrounded by dolphins! They were very intent on looking us over and playing. They were dark gray on top, tapering to

continued on p. 16

continued from p. 15

spots on their sides, with white bellies. They were gorgeous and huge!

I lay flat on the front of our boat and watched five of them as they swam in the bow wake. They would rock onto their sides and look up at me. I was in heaven! We even saw a mother and baby. The water was so clear you could see them rocket right across the bow of the boat. This went on for about 15 minutes before they tired of us and left.

Never in all the years we've been fishing have we seen dolphins do this. I hope that I get to see these magnificent creatures again and have them play with us.

Robin D. Moore
Winston-Salem
EnergyUnited

Bald eagle in Fountaintown

It was a dreary November morning with fog and drizzle. My husband, Kenny, and I were getting ready to go to work. Suddenly my cousin pulled up in the yard. He works at night and was just getting home. I opened up the door and he said, "Lisa get your camera, there's a bald eagle at the end of the road."

I thought he was pulling my leg, but he assured me he was serious. I grabbed my camera, and Kenny and I jumped in his truck. Sure enough, sitting in a tree behind the little church at the end of our road was a bald eagle. I couldn't believe my eyes. I have never seen a bald eagle except on TV, and here was one in Fountaintown.

I rolled the truck window down and braced my camera on the door. I was hoping I could get a picture, even in the drizzle. Kenny decided to try and get closer for a better picture, but as soon as he opened the truck door the eagle took flight. I could not believe the wingspan. It was the most magnificent bird I have ever seen.

To see our national bird in the wild gave me chill bumps. We followed in the direction he flew and saw him again much closer up. Once again, when we opened the truck door he flew off. We haven't seen him since, but I will never forget that morning.

Lisa Maready
Chinquapin
Four County EMC

Red fox in Rockingham County

It is not unusual to see wild animals frequently here in rural Rockingham County. White-tailed deer, wild turkey, rabbit, possum and many others make an appearance from time to time.

For the last several years, we have had a special visitor who comes around mostly in the warmer months:

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Here are the themes in our "Nothing Could Be Finer" series. Send us your stories and pictures. You don't have to be the best writer. Just tell it from your heart.

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"Why I Went Back to School"
What was your most meaningful adult education experience?
Deadline: May 15

AUGUST 2003
"The Funniest Story I Ever Heard"
True, or not so true.
Deadline: June 15

SEPTEMBER 2003
"My Favorite Photo"
Our annual photo gallery of North Carolina people and places.
Deadline: July 15

OCTOBER 2003
"Why I Like My Electric Cooperative"
Is a cooperative different than other utilities?
Deadline: August 15

NOVEMBER 2003
"The Finest Neighbor I Ever Knew"
Tell us why and send a photo.
Deadline: Sept. 15

DECEMBER 2003
"How to Live a Long and Happy Life"
Do you know an older person who sets a good example for staying healthy and happy? Send a photo, too.
Deadline: Oct. 15

The Rules

1. Approximately 200 words or less.
2. Only one entry per household per month.
3. Photos are welcome. Digital photos must be 300 dpi and actual size.
4. E-mail or typed, if possible. Otherwise, make it legible.
5. Include your name, electric co-op, mailing address and phone number.
6. If you want your entry returned, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. (We will not return others.)
7. We pay $50 for each submission published.
8. We will post on our Web site more entries than we publish, but can't pay for those submissions. (Let us know if you don't agree to this.)
9. Send to Nothing Finer, Carolina Country, 3400 Sumner Blvd., Raleigh, NC 27616. Or by e-mail: carolina.country@ncemcs.com. Or through the Web: www.carolinacountry.com

a red fox. We have a habit of throwing food scraps from the table near the edge of the garden, which of course attracts animals. Our little friend has grown quite bold in coming for an occasional twilight dinner. She will come to eat even if we are outside relaxing or doing yard work. In fact, our two boys and their friends can play basketball around the corner of the garage, 40 feet away, and she will not pass up a meal. She does keep a watchful eye, however, for anyone getting too close for comfort. When that happens, our fox will grab a slice of bread and head for home.

Robert Downs
Stoneville
EnergyUnited

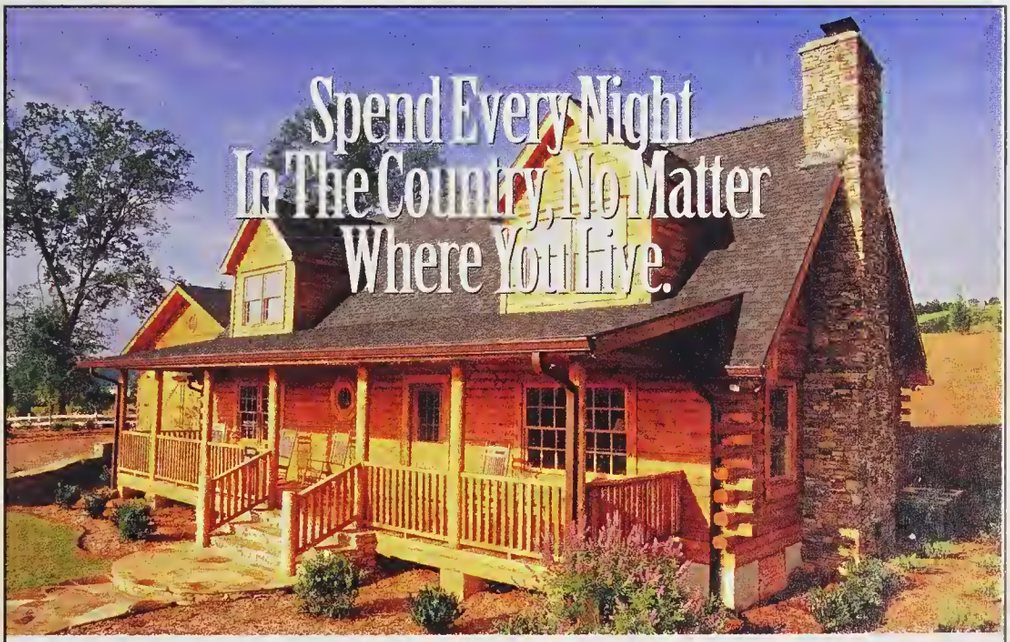
Big bear near East Lake

My husband and I have always enjoyed nature. No matter how many times we see Mother Nature's wildlife it still amazes us.

One day we decided to take a relaxing ride on our four-wheeler. We were riding slowly down a dirt road, enjoying the scenery, when we heard rustling in the bushes next to us. Hearing the noise, we both looked back. I yelled to my husband, "It's a bear!"

He shifted the four-wheeler to gain more speed. To my surprise the bear began to run about six feet beside us. Frightened of what the bear would do, I pulled my leg tight to the four-wheeler. We started laughing because in the desperate attempt to keep my leg in, I caught a cramp. Though we were laughing, we were scared. Our adrenaline was pumping from being so close to such a large animal. It followed us for about 15 yards and then it ducked back into the woods. My husband kept up the same speed as we road toward home in silence.

Linda Cahoon
East Lake
Tideland EMC



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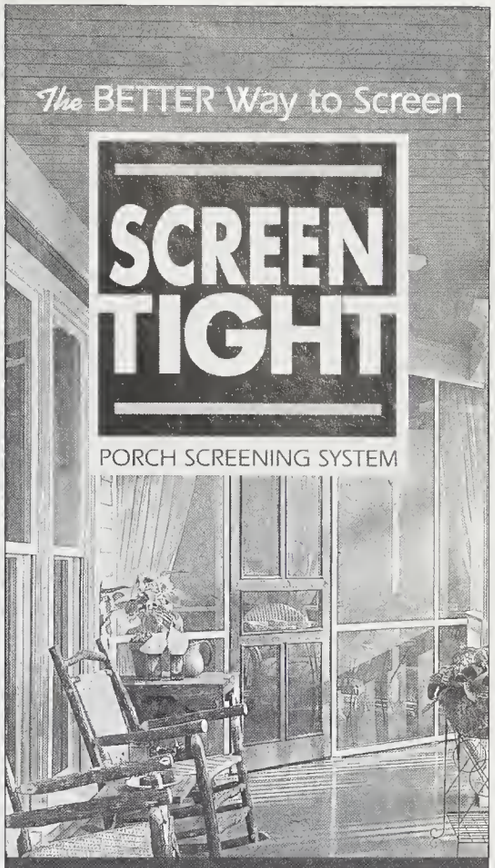

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Art by Dempsey Essick

Davidson County painter Dempsey Essick chose this view of Pilot Mountain in Surry County, as seen from the Jack Fulk farm at the intersection of Perch Road and Grassy Creek Road, to depict a mother and father Eastern bluebird coaxing its offspring to take a leap of faith and fly to a nearby tree. Look closely to see the young bird's newly fledged sister and two brothers waiting in the tree.

Dempsey Essick says it took him hundreds of hours to make this watercolor, mainly in delineating, shading and highlighting each leaf and blade of grass.

For a number of years, the artist has been active in the effort to save the Eastern bluebird, which had been threatened with extinction. Recently he was named president of the North Carolina Bluebird Society (www.ncbluebird.com). He says, "I've done whatever I could, from raising mealy worms for food to building and placing bluebird houses. I even put house behind my gallery in Welcome, and believe it or not it was occupied within less than ten minutes after I put it up. They're such beautiful birds."

"The Fledgling" is available as a 7-by-5-inch print (framed 12-by-10 inches, with a choice of light or dark frame). The prints are signed and numbered by the artist. They cost $40 (includes tax and shipping). See contact information below.

Dempsey Essick Gallery, 5968 Old Hwy 52, P.O. Drawer 1149, Welcome, NC 27374. Phone: (336) 731-3499. Web: www.dempseyessick.com

To support bluebirds, join the North Carolina Bluebird Society for $10.

Contact:

N.C. Bluebird Society,

P.O. Box 4191

Greensboro, NC 27404.

Video benefits Bodie Island lighthouse

Before the age of electricity, America's lighthouses were manned by lighthouse keepers and their families. A new video, "Growing Up At The Lighthouse," pays homage to the tradition and highlights the last two families to live at the Bodie Island Lighthouse. Now in their seventies, the children of lighthouse keepers Vernon Gaskill and Julian Austin share their stories. John Gaskill recalls the dangerous job of painting the tower, while Julian Austin Jr. remembers shooting off big goose guns. Told in the old Outer Banks brogue, their tales recall an isolated, magical life. Videographer Bob Boyer includes a climb to the top, revealing panoramic views from the sound to the sea. Proceeds from video sales are slated to go toward restoration of the Bodie Island Lighthouse. 45-minute video. Copies may be purchased at the Bodie Island Lighthouse Visitors Center, call (252) 473-3024 or send $29.50 (covers shipping, handling and tax) to Coastal Production Company, P.O. Box 431 Wanchese, NC 27981. To find out more about the Outer Banks Lighthouse Society, visit www.outer-banks.com/lighthouse-society.

Restoring Appalachian forests

The mission of Appalachian Voices is to protect and restore Appalachian forests and communities by affecting policies for clean air, coal mining, public lands and private forestry. The nonprofit organization, headquartered in Boone, promotes research, education and direct involvement of communities and the at-large public in environmental decisions. Memberships start at $15 for students. All members receive a one-year subscription to the bimonthly newspaper, "Appalachian Voice." Visit www.appvoices.org/support.html or call (828) 262-1500.

The Longnecker tool

Dick Annand worked as a professional gardener for 30 years, then put his knowledge to use by creating the Longnecker® trowel. The garden tool, made of 13-gauge steel, is used for weeding, edging, planting, grading, tamping, splitting and dividing plants. Annand's Gibsonville-based company also sells the Longnecker Weeder®, which can be sharpened and is used for small beds, mulched or not, and hard surface areas, including patios and pools. Both tools sell for $19.95 each. Visit www.longneckertools.com or call (888) 449-7538.

Railway gifts

The North Carolina Transportation Museum (NCTM) in Salisbury features train rides, turntable rides, educational programs, videos and exhibits that bring the exciting story of rails to life. Located on the former site of Southern Railway Company's largest steam locomotive facility, the museum features an authentic train depot, a 37-stall roundhouse, and more than 25 restored locomotives and rail cars. The museum's gift shop sells models of jalopies, firetrucks and boxcars. NCTM boxcars are $19.95 each, the HO Scale locomotive is $159.95, and the Pedal Firetruck is $145 each. Visit www.ci.salisbury.nc.us/nctrans or call toll-free (877) 628-6386.

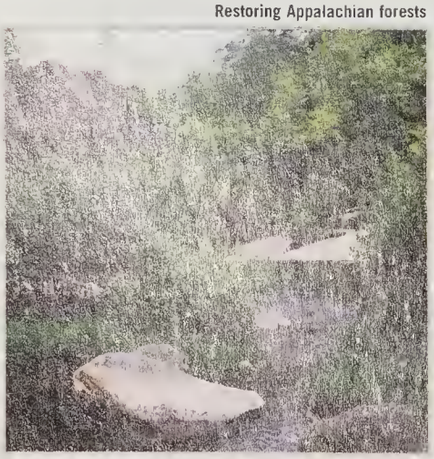
Billy's Sauces

"The Sauce Worth the Cost" is how folks describe Billy's distinctive, vinegar-based sauce. The eastern North Carolina-style treat can be slathered on chicken, pork, fried turkey, seafood, beans and other cookout fare. Some people even put it on collards and chopped summer vegetables such as cucumbers to give them an extra kick. Billy Trevathan first marketed his homemade recipe back in 1994 for a fundraiser at his Tarboro church. He and wife, Jean, both members of Edgecombe-Martin County EMC, have been selling it ever since. Sauces come in hot, mild and a cocktail sauce. Two in a pack cost $7.50; three in a pack $10.75; a case of 12 bottles is $30. Billy's Sauce can be spied on the shelves of Piggly-Wiggly and IGA stores from Raleigh to the beach. To order, visit www.ncagr.com/markets/specfoods/billys.htm or call (252) 823-4931.

Mobility equipment program

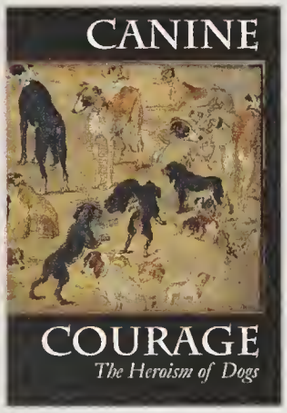
Seniors in Motion helps elderly and handicapped individuals by supplying mobility equipment at little or no out-of-pocket cost to the patient, including motorized and manual wheelchairs, scooters and other equipment such as hospital beds, wheeled walkers and patient lifts. Seniors in Motion is headquartered in Lawrence, Kan., and has representatives in North Carolina. The program features free in-home evaluations and fittings. Seniors in Motion staff fills out prescription paperwork directly with a patient's physician. A rehab representative delivers the equipment, along with safety and operation instructions. Seniors in Motion also handles all repairs on provided equipment. Visit www.horizonmobility.com or call (800) 594-1225.

Restoring Appalachian forests



Billy's Sauces

The Longnecker tool



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ON THE BOOKSHELF

"Canine Courage: The Heroism of Dogs"

Dogs have saved people from dangers such as drowning, fire, armed intruders and animal attacks. This recently released book explores stories of heroism and helps explain why dogs are so dog-gone loyal. Maryland author Tiffin Shewmake analyzes how dogs recognize danger and examines what motivates them to help people. According to her book, heroism is related to loyalty. She includes tales such as "Shep," who waited years at a railroad station for his owner's return, and "Bobbie," who traveled hundreds of miles to find his family. The book also covers clever dogs with jobs, such as dogs who assist the disabled, firehouse dogs, canine mail carriers and a Morse code operator mutt. $15.95. Pagefree Publishing. Softcover, 200 pages. Visit www.doghero.com, or order from major online and traditional bookstores, or call (301) 879-9108.

"Mountain Born, Mountain Molded"

Born in a three-room shack, author Larry Morgan writes about growing up in the Nantahala region of western North Carolina. His parents raised 10 children, and Morgan lovingly depicts his family life in this tongue-in-cheek memoir. His narrative, set between 1945-1955, includes a list of "Mountain English" and descriptions about how mountain folk made their clothes, furnishings and houses, along with stories about typical labor, education, medical care and religious practices. Morgan, who went on to earn graduate degrees in education, now lives near Winston-Salem in Davidson County. Softcover, 167 pages, $14.95. Parkway Publishers. Visit www.parkwaypublishers.com or call (800) 821-9155.

"The Other Side of Orphan"

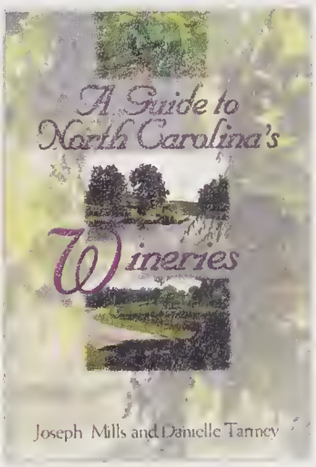
Cary author Terry Barlow believes we are all "spiritual orphans," hence, the title of his book, "The Other Side of Orphan." An eclectic collection of brief homilies, poems and epigrams are presented, often in a religious context. Chapters titled "Father," "Son," and "Spirit" span topics ranging from the greenhouse effect to guilt and power. The softcover book, published by Vantage Press Inc. in 2002, is 114 pages. $9.95. It can be purchased at traditional and online bookstores.

"Best of Reminisce"

More than 200 stories from Reminisce magazine are assembled in this recently published book. The commemorative collection mirrors the format of the nostalgia magazine and features vintage photographs and true-life stories written by readers. Recollections include going to the local soda fountain for treats, taking family trips in the old car, the thrill of cranking homemade ice cream, sending away for radio premiums, feeding the old coal furnace, and switching to electricity for the first time. Hardcover, 192 pages. $19.99. Reminisce Books in Wisconsin. Call (800) 558-1013 (specify item 32111).

"A Guide to North Carolina's Wineries"

Explaining that "no other wine region in the world grows every major type of grape," authors Joseph Mills and Danielle Tarmey profile 22 of the state's wineries in their new book. The authors also explore the history of winemaking, provide techniques used to create a good vintage, and offer profiles of people in the industry. Divided by Western, Eastern and Piedmont regions, each winery listing includes wines produced along with recipes or recommended food pairings. 144 pages, softcover, 50 black-and-white photographs. $10.95. Visit www.blairpub.com or call (800) 222-9796.



Zero-emission electric vehicles may be just around the bend

According to a new research study from the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), a combination of greatly improved battery life and projected cost reductions for batteries and other components can make the cost of electric drive vehicles competitive with gasoline vehicles.

These lower costs and a doubling of battery lifetimes - up to 150,000 miles — result in significantly reduced fuel and maintenance costs for electric drive vehicles, and over their lifetime will offset their higher initial price by the end of this decade, EPRI says.

Electric drive vehicles are engine-hybrid EVs, plug-in hybrid EVs, and some pure EVs.

EPRI researchers specifically found that advanced batteries used in electric drive vehicles are exceeding previous projections for cycle life and durability, a key consideration in cost. Longer life essentially means reduced costs to operate. These developments, along with recent announcements that vehicle manufacturers will substantially increase production of hybrid electric vehicles, will bring down costs of the special electric drive components, making electric-drive vehicles more cost effective.

After considerable testing on the road and in the laboratory, the researchers concluded that nickel metal hydride (NiMH) batteries could be designed, using current technologies, to meet the vehicle lifetime requirements of some full-size battery EVs, subcompact "city" battery EVs and plug-in hybrid EVs. It also appears that only one battery pack per vehicle may be required instead of two as previously projected. With this new information, the EPRI study suggests that savings in fuel and maintenance can pay for the higher up-front cost of battery EVs and hybrid EVs with and without plugs.

Produced in volume, hybrid EVs may help drive down the cost of motors and controllers that could be used in all types of electric-drive cars. But the commercialization of the plug-in hybrid EV, because of its large market appeal, holds the key to the one remaining barrier to zero-emission vehicles - the cost of the "energy" battery.

The non-plug hybrids (such as the Toyota Prius and Honda Civic), plug-in hybrid EVs with a 20-mile all-electric range, and subcompact "city" battery EVs with a 40-mile all-electric range that were analyzed in the study can cost-effectively reduce smog-forming gases, greenhouse gases and petroleum consumption in all scenarios analyzed. The higher initial cost of electric-drive vehicles is due to the battery, but in the long-term, fuel and maintenance savings cover this. According to the EPRI research, plug-in hybrids could reach life cycle cost parity with conventional internal combustion vehicles, after relatively small production runs of 50,000 vehicles per year.

The plug-in hybrid EV works as a pure EV for a portion of its daily travel when it has been plugged into a 120-volt outlet (i.e. each night at home). When its electric range is used up, the vehicle switches automatically into hybrid mode, operating much like a "regular" hybrid EV (e.g., a Toyota Prius) until the battery is recharged. Depending on the size of the battery, it can provide 20 to 60 miles of daily range in zero-polluting EV mode. A plug-in hybrid EV drive system is compatible with all vehicle models and does not sacrifice vehicle performance and driver amenities for the sake of clean air and reduced consumption of petroleum.

"These EPRI-led studies show, in our opinion, that plug-in hybrids are a mass market technology. We consider them an important 'bridge' technology," said Ed Kjaer, director of Electric Transportation for Southern California Edison. "They will help make a viable business case for other technologies that deliver zero emission miles from an 'energy' battery — such as pure EVs and fuel cell EVs."

More information on the study can be found on the EPRI Web site. Go to *www.epri.com/corporate/discover_epri/news/downloads/EPRI_AdvBatEV.pdf.*

EPRI, headquartered in Palo Alto, Calif., was established in 1973 as a non-profit center for public interest energy and environmental research.

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Festival of Flight takes wing in Fayetteville, May 16-26

Touchstone Energy cooperatives sponsor the hot air balloon

For 11 days in May, Fayetteville will host Festival of Flight, the largest public flight event in North Carolina celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Wright Brothers flight at Kitty Hawk in 1903. The festival is expected to draw a half-million visitors.

According to General Hugh Shelton, former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and honorary event chair, "Festival of Flight will lead the State of North Carolina with one of the most expansive programs in a year of statewide activities to honor the origin of manned air travel."

The festival features a weekend arts festival, a two-day military air show at Pope Air Force Base (AFB), a general aviation show at Grannis Field and a seven-day aviation exposition with displays and interactive exhibits. The festival ends on Memorial Day with a celebration of our troops and an observance of the fallen.

The Aviation Exposition will be housed at Fayetteville's Crown Center, where four distinct exhibition facilities provide 120,000 square feet of indoor exhibit space to depict the past, present and future of flight:

The **Heritage Hall** will feature American Institute of Areonautics and Astronautics Evolution of Flight exhibit including the association's exact reproduction of the 1903 Wright Flyer. Other historical displays and exhibits will explore the evolution of flight and the impact that 100 years of aviation has had on our society.

The **Aviation Exhibition Hall** will feature current aerospace capabilities for commercial and business aviation, general aviation and aerospace defense contractors, military displays and student exhibits.

The **Crown Coliseum** will be devoted to NASA, space and future flight, with massive interactive displays and programs telling the story of our journey into space and a glimpse into the future. A highlight will be the live satellite hook-up with the International Space Station when student audiences are present.

The **Festival of Flight Theater** will serve as the venue for celebrity speakers and films about flight.

Outside exhibits include a recreation of the lunar surface where the U.S. Space and Rocket Center will present winners of its moon buggy competition. Also, a daily fly-over of a replica 1910, 1911 or 1912 Wright Brothers airplane will be performed by pilot Dana Smith.

A year-long educational curriculum has also been developed to stimulate students' interest in aviation and flight technology. This educational focus will culminate with 1,000 students being sponsored each day for exclusive access to the Festival's Aviation Exposition. Celebrity speakers and a live satellite link with the International Space Station are some of the special programming that is planned for student audiences.

For more information about the Festival of Flight, visit www.festivalofflight.org or call (910) 323-0003.

Touchstone Energy joins festivities

The festival's opening weekend will feature hot air balloons from around the country, all tethered throughout downtown Fayetteville. Many of the balloons will fly during the general aviation show on May 18, including the Touchstone Energy hot air balloon.

World record holder Cheri White pilots the Touchstone Energy balloon. White's appearance with the Touchstone Energy hot air balloon at the festival is sponsored by five North Carolina Touchstone Energy cooperatives: Central EMC of Sanford; Four County EMC of Burgaw; Lumbee River EMC of Red Springs; South River EMC of Dunne; and Tri-County EMC of Dudley.

The 69,000-cubic-foot hot air balloon is more than 72 feet tall and 53 feet wide when fully inflated. White will be available at various times to sign autographs and talk with visitors.

Cheri White follows in the footsteps of Delia Jaquin, who in 1892 became the first female Tar Heel to pilot a hot air balloon. White piloted the Touchstone Energy balloon, together with 14 other pilots and balloons, across the Continental Divide in Breckenridge, Colo., at altitudes over 15,500 feet and speeds of 55 miles per hour. The December 2001 feat landed the 15 balloonists in the Guiness Book of World Records.

Other events scheduled during the festival include the premiere of the PBS documentary, "Kitty Hawk, The Wright Brothers' Journey of Invention," and the 1927 Academy Award winner of Best Picture, "Wings."

Schedule of Events

Following is a brief schedule of events and listing of the daily themes at the Festival's Aviation Exposition:

Friday, May 16	Opening ceremonies featuring live music, an original dramatic production and the launch of Tom Grubb's kinetic multi-media sculpture, Star Gate 2003.
Saturday, May 17	"The Arts Take Flight" arts festival throughout downtown Fayetteville.
Sunday, May 18	General aviation airshow at Grannis Field, "Barnstorming at its Best" featuring national aerobatics teams, static displays, heritage aircraft and a fireworks display.
Monday, May 19	Aviation Appreciation Day, featuring the evolution of aircraft and honoring women in aviation, in addition to a fly-over of all types of aircraft.
Tuesday, May 20	Space Flight/NASA Day: celebrating space and future flight
Wednesday, May 21	Humanitarian Flight Day featuring rotary wing aircraft and lifesaving rescue aircraft and aviators.

North Carolina Electrical Safety Month

Carolina del Norte Mes de Seguridad Eléctrica

ARE YOU PREPARED FOR POWER OUTAGES?

Power outages are frequent during or after a storm. The following safety tips will help you to be prepared for the inconveniences that power outages can bring for you and your family:

Be prepared...

Prepare an emergency kit including:
- Battery-powered radio
- A flashlight
- Additional batteries
- Bottled water and canned food
- Manual can opener
- Candles and matches
- First-Aid kit
- A standard telephone that doesn't require electricity

Prepare an emergency telephone list to contact the police, fire department, hospital, electric cooperative, local emergency management office. Include your address and telephone number on this list. REMEMBER...cordless phones don't work without power.

Protect your belongings. If you are at home and your area is under weather alert for severe storms, shut off or unplug any sensitive electronic equipment such as TVs and computers to protect them from power surges.

If you are experiencing a power outage...

Verify if you are the only one in your neighborhood without power. If that's the case check your breaker box to make sure all breakers are in the ON position. If you still don't have power, call your electric cooperative to report the outage. Don't assume your electric cooperative knows you are without power.

¿ESTÁ USTED PREPARADO PARA LOS CORTES DE ENERGÍA ELÉCTRICA?

Los cortes de energía eléctrica suceden con frecuencia durante o después de una tormenta. Los siguientes consejos le ayudarán a prepararse para los inconvenientes que ocasiona un corte de energía eléctrica de una manera segura para usted y su familia:

Tome precauciones...

Prepare un kit de emergencia que incluya:
- Radio que funcione con baterías
- Una linterna (lámpara de mano)
- Baterías adicionales
- Agua en botella y alimentos enlatados
- Abridor de latas
- Velas y fósforos (cerillos)
- Kit (botiquín) de primeros auxilios
- Un teléfono estándar que no requiere electricidad

Prepare una lista de teléfonos de emergencia para contactar a la policía, bomberos, hospital, cooperativa eléctrica, centro hispano o algún centro que ofrezca servicios bilingües. En esta lista anote la dirección y el teléfono de su casa. RECUERDE...los teléfonos inalámbricos no funcionan sin electricidad.

Proteja sus pertenencias. Si es que está en casa y se aproxima una tormenta severa, desconecte sus aparatos eléctricos y equipos electrónicos como televisores y computadoras para protegerlos de cambios bruscos de electricidad o descargas eléctricas.

Si usted tiene un corte de energía eléctrica en su casa...

Verifique en su vecindario si usted es el único que no tiene electricidad. Si usted es el único sin energía eléctrica revise su caja de circuitos para cerciorarse de que todos estén encendidos. Si aún no tiene electricidad llame a su cooperativa eléctrica para reportar el corte de energía. No suponga que la cooperativa eléctrica sabe que usted no tiene energía eléctrica.

Asegúrese que todos sus aparatos eléctricos están apagados, especialmente aquellos aparatos que generan calor como la estufa eléctrica, el horno o tostador, las planchas o los tubos para ondular el cabello. Deje una luz prendida para saber cuándo ha vuelto la energía eléctrica.

Mantenga sus velas alejadas de cualquier mueble, cortina u otro material flamable. Nunca deje solos a los niños en una habitación con una vela encendida o una flama expuesta. Nunca deje una flama expeusta sin atención.

Nunca trate de usar estufas de gas, asadores de carbón o cocinetas de campamento para calentar su casa. Estos aparatos son diseñados para usarse únicamente en el exterior donde existe suficiente ventilación. Al usar estos aparatos en su casa usted elimina rápidamente la cantidad de oxígeno, reemplazándolo con monóxido de carbono en el interior de su casa. El monóxido de carbono puede causar serios problemas de intoxicación y hasta la muerte.

Si sale de su casa...

Manténgase completamente alejado de cables de electricidad, de líneas de teléfono o de cables de televisión que se hayan caído. No toque cualquier otro objeto que esté en contacto con los cables y que pueda conducir electricidad como agua, metal, etc.

Nunca maneje su carro sobre alambres de electricidad. Si un cable eléctrico cae sobre su vehículo mientras está conduciendo, permanezca en el interior de su vehículo hasta que reciba ayuda.

RECUERDE...Usted no está solo
Si necesita mayor información por favor comuníquese con la Oficina del Gobernador de Carolina del Norte para Asuntos Latinos e Hispanos (www.ayudate.org) o algún centro de ayuda para Hispanos en su área.

NÚMEROS TELEFÓNICOS DE IMPORTANCIA

Emergencias: 911

Busque el número de su cooperativa eléctrica local: _____
www.ncemcs.com

Make sure to turn off all appliances, especially any heat-producing electric equipment such as electric stoves, toaster ovens, irons or hair curlers. Leave one light fixture on so you'll know when power is restored.

Keep candles away from furniture, curtains, or any other flammable material. Never leave children alone in a room with a burning candle or open flame. Never leave an open flame unattended.

Never *try to use gas stoves, charcoal or briquette grills or camp stoves to heat your home.* They are designed to be used only outdoors where there is enough ventilation. If you use them indoors you will rapidly eliminate the amount of oxygen and increase the carbon monoxide inside your home. Carbon monoxide causes serious intoxication problems and even death.

If you are outside...

Stay away from any downed lines including power, telephone or cable TV lines. Do not touch any object that is in contact with downed power lines and can transmit electricity, such as water and metal.

Never drive your car over power lines. If a power line falls over your car while you are driving, stay inside your car until you receive appropriate help.

IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Emergency: 911

Electric Cooperatives: Check for your local cooperative's phone number at *www.ncemcs.com.*

A standard phone, first-aid kits and matches are among the items suggested to be included in your emergency kit.

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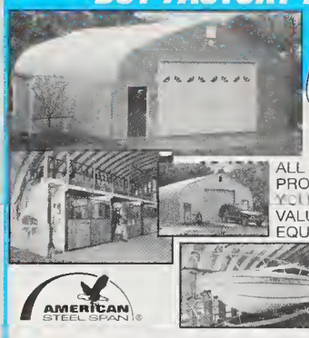

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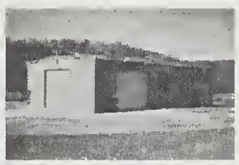

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Digit Detection

A settee, as most of you know, is a long seat with a high back. Given these simultaneous equations, can you find the value of SETTEES? Each letter stands for a digit.

The square of the two-digit number TT equals the four-digit number EESS:

$(TT)^2 = EESS$

$SS + SS = TT$

S E T T E E S = _ _ _ _ _ _ _

MATH wirdz

Each letter in this division problem stands for a digit. Repeated letters stand for repeated digits. Use the digits form 1 through 9 to get MUSIC out of the PIANO.

```
        M U S I C
    ------------
P | P I A N O
    P
    -
      I
      N
      -
      M A
      M U
      - -
        M N
        M N
        - -
            O
            O
            -
```

Answers on page 33

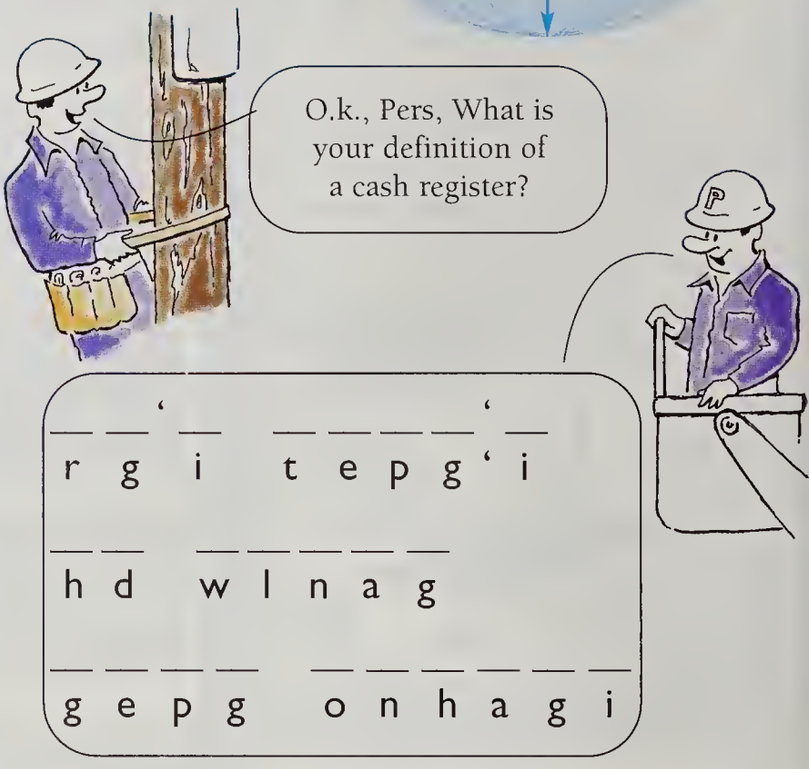
Word play

WARD-WARY-PRAY

As many of you know, Tryon is a town in Polk County, and Selma a town in Johnston County. By the mile, they are a good distance apart. But in this puzzle, it takes only four intermediate steps to go from one to the other, changing one letter in each step to spell a different five-letter word. Letters can be rearranged in any step. Your answer may be different from mine.

1. T R Y O N
2. _ _ _ _ _
3. _ _ _ _ _
4. _ _ _ _ _
5. _ _ _ _ _
6. S E L M A

Percy P. Cassidy — Poles Apart



Use the capital letters below to fill in the blanks above.

"A C F H I N O P R S T U W" means

p o w e r a n d l i g h t

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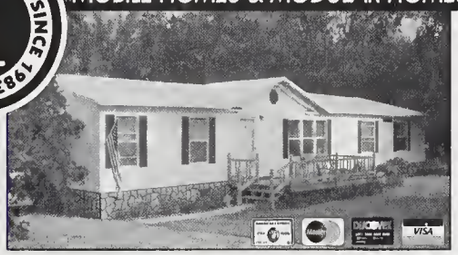

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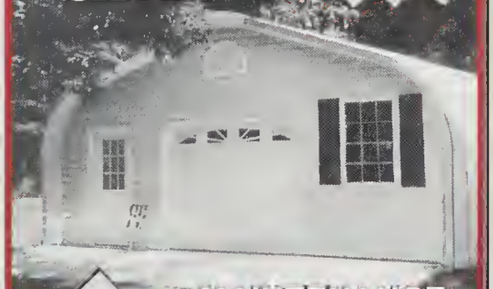

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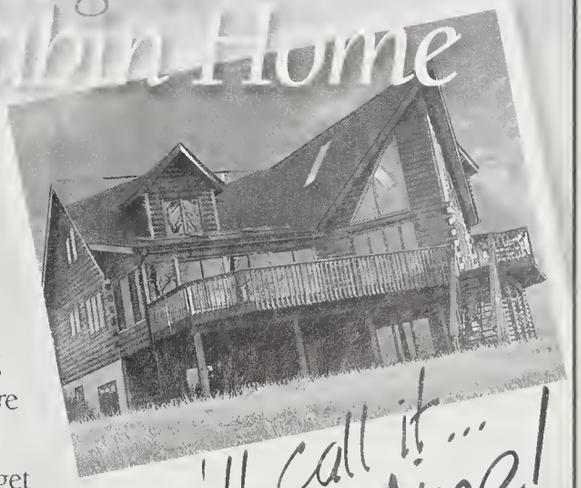

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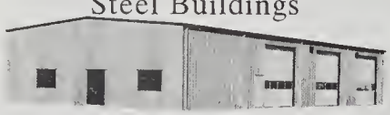

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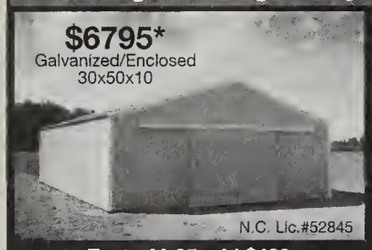

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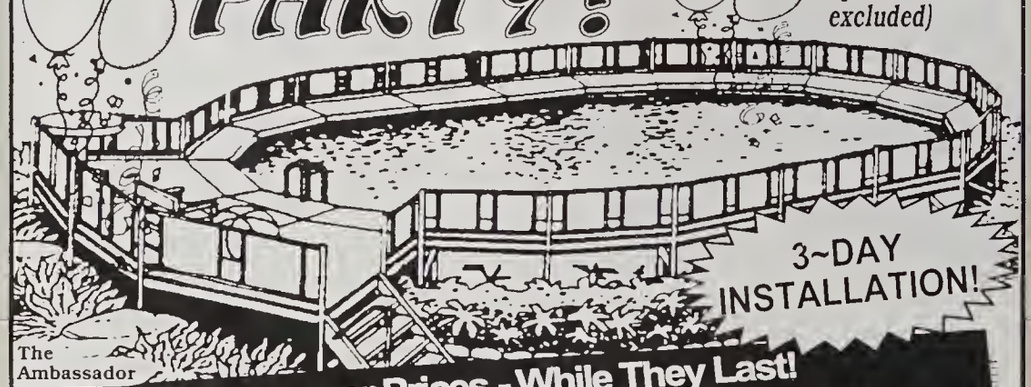

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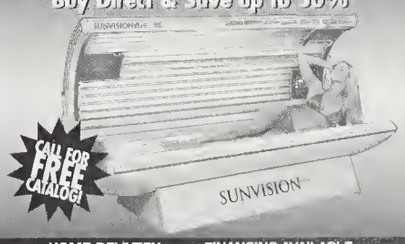

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IT'S WHAT'S UP FRONT THAT COUNTS

May EVENTS

Participants share a hug at the Haywood County Senior Games. The event, held in Waynesville May 5-23, offers nearly 30 events, including archery, badminton, cycling, croquet, horseshoes, shuffleboard, softball, tennis, track and field. A special Silver Arts Celebration at Lake Junaluska on May 22 highlights performances in four juried categories: visual arts, literary arts, heritage arts and performing arts. Call (828) 452-2370.

MOUNTAINS
(west of I-77)

Bear Exhibit
Through Nov. Hendersonville.
(828) 697-2022.
www.dhinc.org

Picking in the Park
Fridays. Canton.
(828) 648-7925.

Main Street Music
Fridays, May 30-Aug.22.
Hendersonville.
(800) 828-4244.

Floral festival
May 1-4. Asheville.
(828) 252-2711.

"Any Time Is Tea Time"
Through May 4. Lenoir.
(828) 758-4004.

Herb Festival
May 2-4. Asheville.
Free. (828) 689-5974.

Beatrix Potter Dance
May 2-18. Asheville.
(828) 254-2621.

Musical Revue
May 2. Hickory.
(800) 509-2444.
www.hickorymetro.com

Disabilities Arts Festival
May 2. Jefferson.
(336) 246-ARTS.

Live Music
May 2. Hickory.
(800) 509-2444.
www.hickorymetro.com

Old Tyme Music Festival
May 3. Hendersonville.
(828) 697-2022. www.dhinc.org

Spring Fest
May 3. Jefferson.
Free. (336) 246-ARTS.

Antique Truck Show
May 3. Efland.
(336) 657-8083.

Spring on the Square
May 3. Shelby. (704) 487-8521.

Spring Festival
May 3. Murphy. (828) 837-6821.

Blooming Arts Fest
May 3. Shelby. (704) 487-8521.

Salamander Ramble
May 3. Lake James.
(828) 652-5047.

Nunsense: The Second Coming
May 2-3, 9-11. Marion.
(828) 659-7529.

Renaissance Faire
May 3-4. Asheville.
(828) 231-6114.
www.rennfaire.org.

Senior Games
May 5-23. Waynesville.
(828) 452-2370.

The Marvelettes
May 6. Asheville.
(828) 257-4530.

Chairman of Board Concert
May 8. Henderson.
(252) 438-8414.
www.hendersonvance.org

Annual Mule Days
May 9. Love Valley.
(336) 764-2220.

Lake Eden Arts Festival
May 9-11. Black Mountain.
(828) 686-8742.

River Wildflowers
May 10. Asheville.
(828) 877-3106.

Fiber Arts Workshop
May 10. Asheville.
Free. (828) 298-7928.

Art in the Park
May 10. Blowing Rock.
Free. (828) 295-7851.

Living History Re-Enactment
May 10. Matthews.
(704) 847-4411.

Animal Tracks
May 11. Boiling Springs.
(704) 434-2357.

Gospel Musical
May 15. Newton.
(800) 509-2444.
www.hickorymetro.com

Moonlight Party Downtown
May 16. Asheville.
Free. (828) 251-9973.

Music festival
May 16-18. Flat Rock.
(828) 692-2005.
www.flatrockmusicfestival.com

Riverfest
May 17. Valle Crucis.
(828) 963-8682.

Migratory Bird Day
May 17. Brevard.
(828) 877-3130.

Blue Ridge Jamboree
May 17. Mount Airy.
(800) 286-6193.
www.surryarts.org

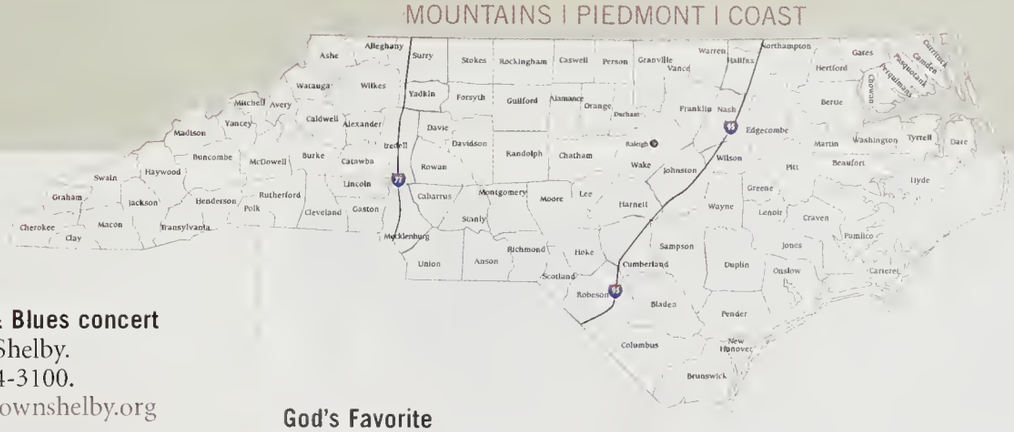
Yadkin Valley Wine Fest
May 17. Elkin.
(336) 526-1111.

Antique Vehicle Display
May 17. Hickory.
(828) 465-1467.

Doll Show
May 17. Brevard.
(828) 966-9482.

Ole Mill Crank-Up
May 17-18. Sanford.
(919) 776-3415.

MOUNTAINS | PIEDMONT | COAST



Gospel Convention
May 17. Glenwood.
(888) 233-6111.

Farm Fun Day
May 17. Asheville.
(828) 298-5600.

Bead Festival
May 17-18. Asheville.
(828) 669-1949.

Home Tour
May 18. Belmont.
(704) 829-1271.

Rhythm & Blues concert
May 22. Shelby.
(704) 484-3100.
www.uptownshelby.org

Silver Arts Celebration
May 22. Lake Junaluska.
(828) 452-2370.

Irish Fiddle
May 23. Asheville.
(828) 257-4530.

Miners' Meet & Common Dig
May 23-26. Thermal City.
(828) 286-3016.

Kids can look up to a giant, smiling jelly bean at the Taste of Charlotte and Avenue of the Arts. The event runs Friday through Sunday, May 2-4 in uptown Charlotte and features samplings from more than 100 restaurants and musical entertainment. It attracted around 50,000 people last year. Call (704) 921-3337 or visit www.tasteofcharlotte.com.

Spring Arts Festival
May 24.
Burnsville.
(800) 948-1632.

Live Music
May 24. Little Switzerland.
Free.
(888) 765-9531.

Walk to the Wetlands
May 24.
Brevard.
(828) 877-3130.

Mountain Man Ride
May 24. Love Valley.
(704) 746-5255.

Garden Jubilee
May 24-25.
Hendersonville.
(800) 828-4244.
www.historichendersonville.org

Concert & Picnic
May 26.
Belmont.
(704) 829-1271.

God's Favorite
May 30-June 1, June 6-8.
Hayesville. (828) 389-8632.
www.licklogplayer.org

Music on Mountain
May 31. Chimney Park.
(828) 625-9611.

Arts & Craft Show
May 31-June 1. Black Mountain.
Free. (828) 669-3842.

Appaloosa Horse Show
May 31-June 1. Asheville.
Free. (828) 683-0295.

Pond Exploring
May 31. Brevard.
(828) 877-3130.

Schiele Museum
Ongoing. Gastonia.
(704) 866-6909.
www.schielemuseum.org

Asheville Art Museum
Ongoing. Asheville.
Through May 25, "Architecture of Intimacy." | (828) 253-3227.
www.ashevilleart.org

Smith-McDowell House Museum
Through Aug. 24, World War 1 aviator. (828) 253-9231.
www.wnchistory.org

PIEDMONT
(between I-77 and I-95)

Jazz & Blues
Fridays. Winston-Salem.
Free. (336) 725-1083.
www.winstonsalemevents.org

Car racing Series
Saturdays through August.
Winston-Salem.
(336) 727-2748.
www.bowmangrayracing.com

Garden Art
Through May 25. Pittsboro.
(919) 542-1239.
www.fearrington.com

Rock the Block
May 2. Winston-Salem.
Free. (336) 727-2317.
www.cityofws.org

Mike Cross
May 2. Durham.
(919) 560-3030.

Horse Expo
May 2-4. Winston-Salem.
(336) 725-5635, ext. 350.

Taste of Charlotte
May 2-4. Charlotte.
(704) 921-3337.
www.tasteofcharlotte.com

Free Day at Garden
May 3. Fayetteville.
(800) 255-8217.

Antiques Fair
May 3. Cameron.
(910) 245-7001.

"Silent Screen"
May 3-4.
Southern Pines.
(910) 695-1579.

Antique Farm Days
May 3-4. Goldsboro.
(919) 735-5503
www.ncoldiron.org

Exotic Animal Show
May 3-4. Raleigh.
(919) 496-7872.

Toy & Hobby Show
May 3-4. Raleigh.
(919) 553-4285.

Spring Folly
May 3-4. Kernersville.
(336) 993-4521.
www.kernersvillenc.com

continued

MAY EVENTS

continued from p. 35

Leave modern times behind and experience fantasy and adventure at the Renaissance Faire in Asheville. The faire, held May 3-4 in Asheville, features more than 35 arts & crafts vendors, games of skill, storytellers, hearty food and a swashbuckling chess battle. Call (828) 231-6114 or visit www.rennfaire.org.

Senior Games
May 5-23. Waynesville.
(828) 452-2370.

Antique Soup Tureens
May 7. Old Salem.
(336) 721-7360.

Aladdin
May 9-10.
Winston-Salem.
(336) 725-4531.

Buggy Festival
May 10-14. Carthage.
(910) 947-2331.

Community Fest
May 10. Laurel Hill.
(910) 276-3831.

Old-time Bluegrass Convention
May 10. Mocksville.
(336) 998-8877.

Spring Garden Tour
May 10. Hillsborough.
(888) 968-2060.
www.chocvb.org

Cat Show
May 10-11. Raleigh.
(919) 556-7651.

Mile-long Yard Sale
May 10. Pittsboro.
(919) 542-4512.
www.chathamcouncilonaging.org

Celtic Music
May 10-11. Winston-Salem.
Free. (336) 924-8191.
www.bethabarapark.org.

Jazz Band Concert
May 13. Southern Pines.
(910) 695-3819.

Checker Tournament
May 15-17. Ahoskie.
(252) 356-4459.

Inflatable Theater
May 15. Winston-Salem.
(336) 721-1945.

Gun and Knife Show
May 16-18. Oakboro.
(704)485-4906

Street Rod Safari
May 17. Asheboro.
(800) 488-0444.

Greek Festival
May 17-19. Winston-Salem.
(336) 765.7145.
www.wsgoc.org.

Art on the Green
May 17, Creedmoor.
(919) 690-0412

Sports Collectibles
May 16-18. Raleigh.
(540) 456-6877.

Spring concert
May 17-18. Southern Pines.
(910) 215-9612.

Street Fair
May 17. Siler City.
(919) 742-3333. www.ccucc.net/

Family Bike Festival
May 18. Pinehurst.
(910) 295-1901.

Dance Collaboration & Film
May 18-19, 30-31, June 1.
Winston-Salem.
(336) 945-6627.
www.albanelved.com

Aviation Show
May 18. Fayetteville.
(800) 255-8217.
www.festivalofflight.org

Vintage Aviation Fly-by
May 19. Fayetteville.
(800) 255-8217.
www.festivalofflight.org

Combat Aircraft Day
May 23. Fayetteville.
(800) 255-8217.
www.festivalofflight.org

Fiddler's & Bluegrass Festival
May 23-25. Union Grove.
(704) 539-4417.

Comedy About Money
May 23-June 1. Winston-Salem.
(336) 748-0857.
www.littletheatreonline.com

Antique Fair
May 24. Malcom Farm.
(910) 944-7685.

Puppet Show
May 24. Kernersville.
(336) 996-7922.
www.kornersfolly.org

The Platters
May 24. Winston-Salem.
(336) 723-6320.

Bird Fair
May 24. Raleigh.
(919) 779-1206.

Goat Show
May 24. Raleigh.
(919) 542-5457.

Scholars Art
May 29-June 28.
Winston-Salem.
(336) 723-7395.
www.sawtooth.org

Artist of the Year
May 29-June 28.
Free. (336) 723-7395.
www.sawtooth.org

Rust & Dust Show
May 30-June 1. East Bend.
(336) 699-4385.

Blues Festival
May 31. Winston-Salem.
(336) 275-4944.
www.piedmontblues.org

Civil War Relics Show
May 31-June 1. Raleigh.
(704) 289-1604.

Youth Production
May 31. Fayetteville.
(800) 255-8217.

Kennel Club Show
May 31-June 1. Pinehurst.
(919) 776-4688.

Granville County Historical Society Museum
Ongoing. Oxford. Through July 27, "Freedom is not Free: The Korean War."
(919) 693-9706.

Museum of Life and Science
Ongoing. Durham.
Racecar exhibit, through May 4.
(919) 220-5429. www.ncmls.org

N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences
Ongoing. Raleigh.
Through May 11, "Botanical watercolors." • Through May 26, "SuperCroc." • Free.
(919) 733-7450.
www.naturalsciences.org

N.C. Museum of History
Ongoing. Raleigh. Southern Furniture, through June 15 • Through Sept., "Flashback to 60s." • (919) 715-0200.
www.ncmuseumofhistory.org

N.C. Museum of Art
Ongoing. Raleigh.
Through May 11, Sculptor Exhibit. (919) 839-6262.
www.ncartmuseum.org

Chapel Hill Museum
Ongoing. Chapel Hill.
Through May, "Artisans Trade Secrets" • (919) 967-1400.
www.chapelhillmuseum.org

Ackland Art Museum
Ongoing. Chapel Hill.
Through May 25, "19th Century French Art."
(919) 966-5736.

Fayetteville Museum of Art
Ongoing. Fayetteville. Through June, flying exhibits; African artifacts. (910) 485-5121.

Airborne Museum
Ongoing. Fayetteville.
Exhibit on Fort Bragg.
(910) 483-5311. www.asomf.org

Charlotte Museum of History
Ongoing. Charlotte.
May 3, Blackbeard! •
Through June, "Highways and Byways." • Through September 2004, "Soliders Stories." • 704-568-1774.
www.charlottemuseum.org

Mint Museum of Art
Ongoing. Charlotte.
Through June 1, "Edward Hopper." (704) 337-2009.
www.mintmuseum.org

Discovery Place
Ongoing. Charlotte. Heart Exhibit. (704) 372-6261.

COAST
(east of I-95)

Senior Art Exhibit
May 2. Edenton.
(252) 482-8005.

Horse Show
May 2-3. Williamston.
(252) 792-5111.

Community Day
May 3. Edenton.
(800) 775-0111.

Airport Open House
May 3. Aulander.
(252) 345-0111.

Antique Tractor Pull
May 3. Goldsboro.
(919) 735-5503.

The Hope Ball
May 3. Windsor.
(252) 794-3140.

Photography Show
May 4-31. Elizabeth City.
Free. (252) 338-6455.

Art in these Parts
May 4-13. Wilmington.
(910) 686-9518.
www.poplargrove.com

Life Goes On
May 9-10. Elizabeth City.
(252) 338-3382.

May Daze Festival
May 10. Creswell.
Parade-Arts-Food
(252) 797-4499
(252) 797-4852

Alive After Five
May 15. Williamston.
Free. (252) 792-1539.

Checker Tournament
May 15-17. Ahoskie.
(252) 356-4459.

Paul Tardif Jazz Quintet
May 17. Oriental.
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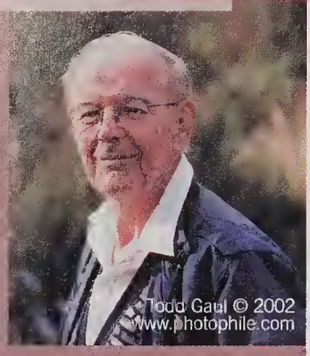

by Hank Smith

Depending on your location, late April through May is the time to plan for beautiful borders along the patio, in the foreground of permanent landscape plantings, or in special garden accent spots. Vegetable garden work is humming. Make first plantings for these: tomatoes, okra, eggplant, lima beans, Southern peas, cantaloupes and watermelons. In lower Piedmont and coastal areas, a second or third planting can be made of these.

Caladium needs light, but direct sun will burn the leaves. It also requires a warm and moist location.

Water Versus Insect Control

Poor insect control sometimes is the result of the lime content of water used. If in doubt about the lime content of your water, make this quick check: Add a little emulsifiable liquid insecticide or liquid green soap to water and shake. If the mixture curdles or becomes cloudy, a commercial spreader-sticker or even a liquid detergent will help correct the problem.

Longer Life For Cut Flowers

Slowing down bacterial growth in the water in a vase will help prolong the life of blooms used in floral designs. If you change the water daily, place blooms in cool (not cold) fresh water. Commercial preparations available in garden centers and florist shops are a great help. Keep them out of reach of small children. One-half a teaspoon of Clorox mixed in a quart of water helps prevent bacteria from forming. Boric acid, mixed by the same amount, is an aid. An old Norwegian formula that has been effective for generations: Dissolve six level teaspoons sugar and one tablespoon vinegar in five cups warm water. Use in cut flower containers. Plants take up warm water faster than they do in cold water. With this formula, it's not necessary to change water daily. Never use sugar alone as a preservative for cut flowers.

Controlling Cutworms

Cutworms can cause severe damage to tomato plants. Gardeners have used milk cartons, pieces of wax paper wrapped around stems and aluminum foil to protect young plants. These methods have proven to be effective. Cutworms are also repelled by surrounding area garden crops with barriers of crushed eggshells, damp wood ashes, chicken manure or leaf mulch. Worms cannot digest cornmeal but yet are attracted to it. Scatter cornmeal where worms have been a problem.

Insect And Disease Control Hints

For satisfactory control of insects and diseases of flowers, shrubs, fruits or vegetables, don't use the same sprayer used for weed killers for other tasks. Carefully washing sprayers seldom removes all weed-killer residue.

Shirobana Spirea

A selection of Japanese spirea (Spirea japonica) is called Shirobana, sometimes referred to as Shibori. Easily grown, this two-feet to three-feet-tall and two-feet to three-feet wide, compact shrub is practically pest-free. It makes a good edging for borders and is a choice plant to work among annuals and perennials in flower gardens. Its blooms are eye-catching: sometimes white, often red, often pink. All three colors can appear at the same time on the same plant. Shirobana grows best in full sun. Soil should be fertile and well-drained.

Spring into Spring

It's sometimes confusing to determine the "root end" and "leaf growth" of a caladium tuber at planting time. Placed on its side in the soil, the tuber will sprout leaves upward.

Close cousin of morning glory vines, moon vine (Calonyction aculeatum) produces creamy-white blooms that open at sunset and remain until daybreak. Growing 10-15 feet in height, vines need full sun and rich soil. Propagate by seed or transplants.

These shade-loving herbs are adapted to growth on the north side of buildings or other shady spots: liverwort, red baneberry, blue cohosh, cardinal flower, ginseng, dutchman's breeches, maidenhair fern, goldenseal, Jack-in-the-Pulpit and mountain laurel.

GARDENING FOCUS

Perennial Care

Choice perennials for sunny spots include daylilies, hardy hibiscus, ornamental grasses, blue false indigo (Baptista australis), Russian sage (Perovskia sp.), "Autumn Joy" sedum, "Goldstrum," black-eyed Susan, bloody cranebil (Geranium sanguineum), and crocosmia. Good choices for shady spots include hostas, Japanese roof iris (Iris tectorum), Lenten roses, ferns, Japanese anemone, and variegated fragrant Solomon's Seal (Polygonatum odoratum).

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Sunroom options range from aluminum to wood frames

By James Dulley

Adding a shading device helps prevent overheating in summer.

There is a vast array of sunroom options that would probably fit your needs even for people on a fairly tight budget. These designs range from low-cost kits using aluminum frames and acrylic glazing to elaborate decorative ones using curved wood frames and super-efficient glass. Some models are designed to be do-it-yourself kits while others are delivered to your home already completely assembled or built only by authorized contractors.

It is possible to use your new sunroom to capture solar heat and reduce your overall heating bills, but this will affect the basic design, materials and usable interior floor space. For the typical, reasonably priced sunroom kit used primarily as additional living space, a reasonable efficiency goal is to just make it energy self-sufficient during the winter.

To use a sunroom to assist with the heating of your house, it needs the proper orientation to the sun, much thermal mass and a method to move the solar heat into your house. The orientation should be within 15 degrees of true solar south. This is different than the compass south and varies depending on your location in the country. Your local weather service should be able to tell you how many degrees true solar south varies from compass south in your area.

When attempting to provide heat for your house, you want the sunroom to capture as much solar heat as possible. Without heavy thermal mass to absorb this heat, the sunroom can overheat and much of the heat is then lost back outdoors. Typical thermal mass materials are masonry (bricks, concrete, stone) and water in drums. The masonry thermal mass can be built into a wall or floor and can actually be an attractive addition to the sunroom. Warm air ducts are a common way to move the solar-heated air into your house.

Write for (instantly download - www.dulley.com) Utility Bills Update No. 640 - buyer's guide of 12 efficient sunroom/kit manufacturers listing styles, frame/glazing materials, venti- shading options, features and heat producing tips.

[redacted]

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The newer do-it-yourself sunroom kits, thanks to computer-aided design and manufacturing procedures, have a professionally built look when completed. I built a sunroom kit on the concrete patio of my house and although it took me a month to do it, it looks very nice. Even the few manufacturers that sell only through authorized contractors who build it for you often allow you to assist in building it to lower the overall cost.

Sunrooms are classified as three-season (not winter usage) or year-round models. A year-round model will have double-pane thermal windows and a wood or thermally-broken aluminum frame for efficiency. The thermal breaks are more important in colder climates, especially to control condensation since people often have many plants in sunrooms. Three-season sunrooms typically have just single-pane windows and screens to be opened like a porch during the non-heating seasons.

The simplest design to build yourself uses an aluminum frame with double-pane clear acrylic windows. During the summer, its specially designed windows can be removed to create an open screened porch. The windows are self-storing beneath the screens. The clear roof is made of tough, double-pane polycarbonate (bulletproof glass).

Most sunroom kits, whether contractor-built or do-it-yourself, bolt together like a huge erector set. All of the color-coded components, hardware and fasteners are included for easy assembly. If you order one of the completely assembled sunrooms that bolt down over a foundation or patio, you can be using it within three hours after delivery. Large models are delivered in several preassembled sections.

Models using frames with a curved transition from the front to top are the most attractive, but more difficult to build. These often use wood frames instead of no-maintenance aluminum. If you want curved eaves and an attractive interior with no maintenance, choose a kit with composite framing (wood interior and aluminum exterior).

During the summer, sunrooms often overheat in the afternoon sun. Adding some type of shading device and ventilation is imperative. Exterior shading systems, such as solar screening, are most effective and attractive from indoors. Most sunroom kits have optional shading systems specifically designed for them.

Another option for a more open interior is to install a large, screened folding window wall. Its efficient hinged thermal-glass panels open accordion-style on tracks to expose the screening and entrance door.

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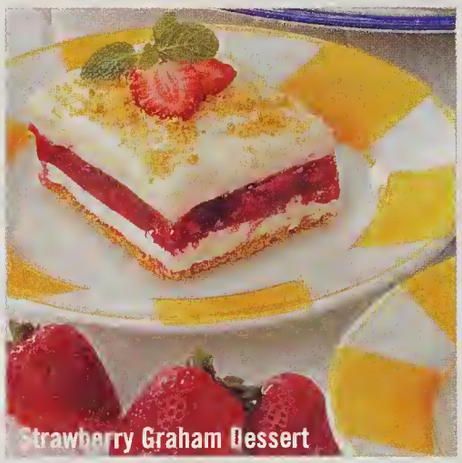
recipes editor, **Jenny Lloyd**

Strawberry Graham Dessert



1 cup graham cracker crumbs (about 16 squares)
2 tablespoons butter or margarine, melted
1 package (3 ounces) strawberry gelatin
1 cup boiling water
1 package (16 ounces) frozen sweetened sliced strawberries, thawed
1 tablespoon lemon juice
4 ounces cream cheese, softened
½ cup confectioners' sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
Dash salt
1 cup whipping cream, whipped
Fresh strawberries and mint, optional

In a small bowl, combine cracker crumbs and butter; set aside 1 tablespoon for topping. Press the remaining crumb mixture onto the bottom of a greased 8-inch square baking dish. Bake at 325 degrees for 10-14 minutes or until golden brown. Cool on a wire rack.

In a bowl, dissolve gelatin in boiling water; stir in strawberries and lemon juice. Refrigerate until partially set, about 1½ hours.

In a small mixing bowl, beat the cream cheese, sugar, vanilla and salt until smooth. Fold in whipped cream. Spread half over cooled crust. Cover and refrigerate remaining cream mixture. Pour gelatin mixture over filling; refrigerate until firm. Top with remaining cream mixture. Sprinkle with reserved crumb mixture. Refrigerate overnight. Garnish with fresh berries and mint if desired.

Yield: 9 servings.

Streusel Strawberry Pizza

1 package (18¼ ounces) white cake mix
1¼ cups quick-cooking oats
1/3 cup butter or margarine, softened
1 egg
1 can (21 ounces) strawberry pie filling or flavor of your choice
½ cup chopped nuts
¼ cup packed brown sugar
⅛ teaspoon ground cinnamon

In a mixing bowl, combine the dry cake mix, oats and butter until blended; set aside ¾ cup for topping. Add egg to the remaining crumb mixture and mix well. Press into a greased 12-inch pizza pan. Build up edges and flute if desired. Bake at 350 degrees for 12 minutes.

Spread pie filling over crust to within 1 inch of edges. Combine the nuts, brown sugar, cinnamon and reserved crumb mixture; sprinkle over filling. Bake for 15-20 minutes or until lightly browned. Cool on wire rack. Refrigerate any leftovers.

Yield: 8-10 servings.

Sky-High Strawberry Pie

3 quarts fresh strawberries, divided
1½ cups sugar
6 tablespoons cornstarch
⅔ cup water
Red food coloring, optional
1 deep-dish pastry shell (10 inches), baked
1 cup whipping cream
1½ tablespoons instant vanilla pudding mix

In a large bowl, mash enough berries to measure 3 cups. In a saucepan, combine the sugar and cornstarch. Stir in the mashed berries and water; mix well. Bring to a boil over medium heat, stirring constantly. Cook and stir for 2 minutes. Remove from the heat; add food coloring if desired. Pour into a large bowl. Chill for 20 minutes, stirring occasionally, until mixture is just slightly warm. Fold in the remaining berries. Spoon into pie shell. Chill for 2-3 hours. In a small mixing bowl, whip cream until soft peaks form. Sprinkle pudding mix over cream and whip until stiff. Garnish pie with cream mixture.

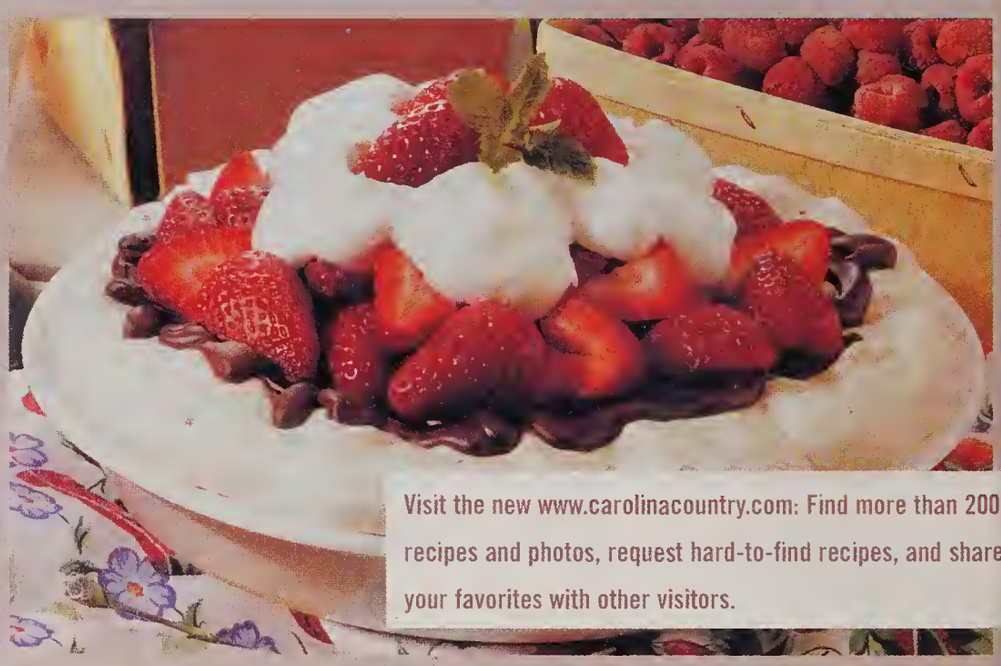
Yield: 8-10 servings.

Strawberry Meringue Pie

⅓ cup finely crushed saltines (about 12 crackers), divided
3 egg whites
¼ teaspoon cream of tartar
⅛ teaspoon salt
1 cup sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
½ cup chopped pecans, toasted
1 package (4 ounces) German sweet chocolate
2 tablespoons butter (no substitutes)
4 cups strawberries, halved
1 cup whipping cream
2 tablespoons confectioners' sugar

Sprinkle 2 tablespoons cracker crumbs into a greased 9-inch pie plate. In a mixing bowl, beat egg whites, cream of tartar and salt until soft peaks form. Gradually add sugar; beat until stiff peaks form. Fold in the vanilla, pecans and remaining cracker crumbs. Spread meringue onto the bottom and up the sides of prepared pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 25-30 minutes or until meringue is lightly browned. Cool on a wire rack. Melt chocolate and butter; drizzle over shell. Let stand 15 minutes or until set. Top with berries. Whip the cream and confectioners' sugar until soft peaks form; spoon over berries.

Yield: 6-8 servings.



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CASH TO HELP WITH FINAL EXPENSES

Up to **$35,000!***

*Selected maximums apply depending on the amount of coverage

Now you can have a life insurance plan to help cover your final expenses—a plan which pays up to $35,000 to help your family cover your last expenses—worldwide.

- Protection up to $35,000
- Benefits begin first day
- Eligible up to age 85
- No physical exam required, based on coverage
- No waiting period
- Proceeds immediately available at death of insured
- Company cannot cancel your plan, reduce your benefits or raise your premium
- Can cost only pennies a day
- Whole Life Insurance Policy CHIC 5002
  Underwritten by Conseco Health Insurance Company

CLIP AND MAIL COUPON TODAY!

ACT NOW!

CONSECO HEALTH INSURANCE COMPANY
3700 FOREST DRIVE, SUITE 205
COLUMBIA, SC 29204

☐ **Plan 1** Yes, I would like to know more about the new plan!
☐ **Plan 2** Please provide information on Low Medicare Supplement Rates

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP_____

Date of Birth_____Telephone _____

MAIL THIS COUPON TODAY TO RECEIVE FULL DETAILS WITHOUT OBLIGATION CC 5/03

Plan 1: Most Health Conditions Accepted!

Not affiliated with or endorsed by any government agency

Sample Monthly Rates per 1,000

Issue Age	Male (non-smoker)	Female (non-smok
5	$ .60	$ .56
15	$ .78	$ .68
35	$ 1.16	$ .98
55	$ 3.08	$ 2.35
65	$ 5.52	$ 3.78
75	$ 10.69	$ 7.37
85	$ 22.28	$ 16.32

Plan 2: Unbelievable Medicare Supplement Rates!

We have the **most competitive Medica Supplement Rates Anywhere!** Please check Block #2 for more information an rates. Discount Drug Card and Automati Claim Filing included at **NO EXTRA COS**